

Senate File 495 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 495

BY CELSI

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to school bus equipment standards,
- 2 requirements, and funding, and including effective date
- 3 provisions.
- 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 321.373, Code 2019, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 7A. a. A new school bus ordered for
4 purchase by a school district on or after the effective date
5 of this Act shall be equipped with a stop arm camera mounted to
6 the school bus stop arm.

7 *b.* A school bus placed in service for which the requirements
8 of paragraph "a" do not apply shall be equipped with a stop
9 arm camera mounted to the school bus stop arm within two years
10 following the effective date of this Act.

11 *c.* The rules prescribed for school buses under this section
12 shall conform to the requirements of this subsection.

13 Sec. 2. Section 285.8, subsection 6, paragraph d, Code 2019,
14 is amended to read as follows:

15 *d.* For standard of safety in construction of school
16 transportation equipment. Consistent with subsection 5,
17 standards established by the department under this paragraph
18 shall conform to the requirements of section 321.373,
19 subsection 7A.

20 Sec. 3. Section 298.3, subsection 1, paragraph i, Code 2019,
21 is amended to read as follows:

22 *i.* The purchase of transportation equipment for
23 transporting students and the repair of such transportation
24 equipment if the cost of the repair exceeds two thousand five
25 hundred dollars. For the purposes of this paragraph, "*repair*"
26 means restoring an existing item of equipment to its original
27 condition, as near as may be, after gradual obsolescence or
28 physical and functional depreciation due to wear and tear,
29 corrosion and decay, or partial destruction, and includes
30 maintenance of an item of equipment or the modification of
31 an item of equipment to comply with construction or safety
32 standards, including the requirements of section 321.373,
33 subsection 7A.

34 Sec. 4. Section 423F.3, subsection 6, Code 2019, is amended
35 by adding the following new paragraph:

1 NEW PARAGRAPH. *Od.* Additionally, "school infrastructure"
2 includes the cost of the modification of an item of school
3 transportation equipment to comply with construction or safety
4 standards, including the requirements of section 321.373,
5 subsection 7A.

6 Sec. 5. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED. In accordance
7 with section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring
8 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall
9 be paid by a school district from state school foundation
10 aid received by the school district under section 257.16, a
11 physical plant and equipment levy under section 298.2, or from
12 revenues from the secure an advanced vision for education
13 fund under chapter 423F. This specification of the payment
14 of the state cost shall be deemed to meet all of the state
15 funding-related requirements of section 25B.2, subsection 3,
16 and no additional state funding shall be necessary for the
17 full implementation of this Act by and enforcement of this Act
18 against all affected school districts.

19 Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate
20 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

21	EXPLANATION
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22 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
23 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

24 This bill relates to school bus equipment standards and
25 requirements.

26 Code section 321.373 requires every school bus except
27 private passenger vehicles used as school buses to be
28 constructed and equipped to meet safety standards prescribed
29 in rules adopted by the state board of education. The bill
30 requires a new school bus ordered for purchase by a school
31 district on or after the effective date of this bill to be
32 equipped with a stop arm camera mounted to the school bus stop
33 arm and requires existing school buses to be equipped with stop
34 arm cameras mounted to the school bus stop arm within two years
35 following the effective date of the bill.

1 Code section 285.8 enumerates the powers and duties of the
2 department of education relating to the transportation of
3 children, including aiding in the enforcement of the motor
4 vehicle laws relating to the transportation of school children
5 and including prescribing uniform standards and regulations for
6 safety in construction of school transportation equipment. The
7 bill requires the standards established by the department of
8 education relating to the standard of safety in construction
9 of school transportation equipment to conform to the stop arm
10 camera requirements established in the bill.

11 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code
12 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of
13 any state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school
14 district from state school foundation aid received by the
15 school district under Code section 257.16, a physical plant and
16 equipment levy under Code section 298.2, or from revenues from
17 the secure an advanced vision for education fund under Code
18 chapter 423F. The specification is deemed to constitute state
19 compliance with any state mandate funding-related requirements
20 of Code section 25B.2. The inclusion of this specification is
21 intended to reinstate the requirement of political subdivisions
22 to comply with any state mandates included in the bill.

23 The bill authorizes school districts to use revenues from
24 a physical plant and equipment levy under Code section 298.2
25 or from the secure an advanced vision for education fund
26 under Code chapter 423F to comply with the stop arm camera
27 requirements in the bill.

28 The bill takes effect upon enactment.